



# THE GUILFORD GAZETTE



Volume 26 No. 4

November 2020 Issue

## Community Pulls Together to Provide Outdoor Learning

BY MAGGIE FOLEY

On a sunny morning in September, Guilford Central School is buzzing with activity.

The sound of hammering, sawing, and the growl of big machinery fills the air. On the field close to Town Office, Kitsie LaRock sets foundation blocks with a backhoe while John Hunt and Robin Nilson maneuver freshly milled posts. Nearby, Pre-K teacher Emma Hallowell puts finishing touches on a new cubby structure, where children's belongings can stay dry even on the rainiest of days. The upper field is similarly busy: Jared Bristol, Mike Tkaczyk, Scott Mathes, Robin Frehsee, and Peter Welch are adding trusses to an open-air pavilion for the upper grades.

Most weekends since August, this has been a familiar scene: parents gathered with the goal of constructing three outdoor pavilions at GCS. With volunteer labor and mostly donated materials, they were committed to preparing the school to operate safely during the COVID pandemic, guided by the knowledge that being outdoors reduces viral risk.

The effort to expand GCS's learning environment to emphasize its outdoor spaces also includes expansion of natural play areas, purchase of materials for learning outdoors in all weather, and educator professional development.

"We know that being outdoors is safer right now. We also know outdoor learning supports children's social-emotional

wellbeing and academic success. While this effort was accelerated by COVID, it aligns with Guilford's longer term vision

are working hard to make it happen for GCS kids."

As teachers planned for the new year with the goal of having kids outside 50%-75% of each day, it became clear that anticipated COVID funding, while critically important, might not be sufficient to enact the school's vision.

Parents also made clear their preference for more outdoor school-time and an eagerness to make it happen; several committed to raising the funds necessary to achieve the outdoor learning vision for GCS. An ad hoc fundraising committee set an ambitious goal for

a small town like Guilford: \$30,000.

"We set a really big goal for ourselves," said Kitsie LaRock who spearheaded the fundraising effort. "We just hoped that people would recognize the importance of this effort." With 200 letters sent to the Guilford community and a GoFundMe page launched early in September, LaRock and the fundraising committee crossed their fingers and waited.

"The response was astounding," said Beth Bristol, chair of GCS's leadership council. "From the moment GoFundMe launched, we started receiving all sorts of surprising and wonderful gifts," continued Bristol.

By late September, more than 100 donors—including Guilford community members, GCS parents and



*New structure in the school's outdoor learning area*

as a school with outdoor education as the hallmark of its educational philosophy. We are excited to make this pivot," said GCS principal John Gagnon.

"Guilford has developed a strong foundation in outdoor education. I do think we are a leader in this way. With our Forest Pre-K program, 6th grade's Forest Fridays, the Farm to School program, a great professional development partnership with Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, and years of volunteer-led Four Winds programming, we have been moving steadily in this direction," continued Gagnon.

"We are also so lucky to have an impressive group of teachers who are enthusiastic about outdoor, project-based curriculum in our school. They understand the value of this educational approach, and they

*Continued on Page 3*

# *The Guilford Gazette*

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The *Guilford Gazette* is happy to print photos and articles submitted by the public. Please be aware that *the Gazette staff cannot be responsible for photographs and names printed without the permission of participants*. It is the responsibility of the writers and photographers to make sure they have permission to print.

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- **Send in articles.** This is a chance to let us know what your group, organization or business is doing in Guilford! Or perhaps you'd like to share a reminiscence, poem, or story with your fellow Guilfordites. Just limit your entry to no more than 600 words if you are sending a photograph with your article, or 650 words without a photograph. You can submit articles to the Gazette by email to [gazette@guilfordfree.org](mailto:gazette@guilfordfree.org), or you can send a printed copy to Susan Bonthron (108 S. Belden Hill Rd., Guilford, VT 05301), or Gazette c/o Guilford Free Library (4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301). Please DO pay attention to deadlines!

- **Join our staff.** If you have an interest in becoming a staff member who can help with editing, advertising or production, we'd love you to join us at our "second Thursday of the month" meetings at 9AM by Zoom (email for link) or, when possible, at the Guilford Country Store. Meetings start on time and last no more than one hour.

- **Donate.** The Gazette always welcomes donations of any size. They help pay for postage and printing. Checks made out to The Guilford Gazette should be sent to Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Road, Guilford, 05301.

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# New Pastor for Guilford Community Church

BY CONNIE GREEN

Reverend Elisa Lucozzi is the new pastor of Guilford Community Church. The congregation voted unanimously on May 24<sup>th</sup> via Zoom, and celebrated that same day with an exuberant drive-by welcome at the church that included balloons, bubbles, and banners. Elisa, who was

Elisa was drawn to the church. These issues are high priorities for her, as is supporting queer youth. Her approach in the beginning of her ministry here will be listening and learning where the need is. She will also be getting to know the congregation by Zoom, or by masked and distanced hellos, which is

no easy feat. She is up for the challenge and is busy thinking of creative ways to make connections.

She feels grateful amazement that she has come to a church with such a vibrant and diverse music ministry. She had met Peter and Mary

“from away” were snapping up anything on the market sight unseen. They have appreciated the warm welcome they’ve received so far: flowers, fruit, and even a freshly baked apple pie have appeared on their doorstep. Their elderly cat, Ben, is making the transition, too, bringing his own prayer shawl that a member of the Guilford prayer shawl group had knit for him before the move.

Rosanne is an RN, and started a Faith Community Nursing ministry in St. Johnsbury, which she made into her own non-profit. Her non-profit also runs a free foot-care clinic called Soul to Sole, which she hopes to establish in the Brattleboro area. She also has a Masters of Divinity, and studied jazz as an undergraduate at Berklee College of Music.

During the pandemic, the church is not holding in-person services; the pastor and congregation, including a virtual choir, work together to record services that are broadcast on BCTV on Sundays and Wednesdays. Elisa has been getting a crash course in Guilford Church’s way of producing services and is quickly adapting. Despite the technical challenges, the bigger question she has is what it means to be a church during a pandemic, when the sanctuary is represented by rectangles on a computer screen.

Elisa can be reached at [pastorelisagcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorelisagcc@gmail.com) or (802) 257-2776. Links to the 10AM service and the archived services can be found at [guilfordchurch.org](http://guilfordchurch.org), and services are available on BCTV. All are welcome.



*Elisa Lucozzi, the new Pastor of Guilford Community Church.*

the pastor of the United Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury for the past three years, began officially on September 1<sup>st</sup>. During her first month, she had the benefit of overlapping with retiring pastor Lise Sparrow (usually remotely) to get oriented to the church and learn about its community partnerships.

Guilford Church’s commitment to social justice and to advocating for those without a voice were among the top reasons

Alice Amidon previously at Vermont Conference (UCC) events. Peter and Andy Davis, directors of the choir, frequently write the arrangements the choir sings. Elisa has a love of music, getting involved herself as a singer, drummer, and dancer. She said of her ten years singing in a Gospel choir that it was “the most profound prayer.”

Elisa and her spouse, Rosanne Hebert, found a house in West Brattleboro at an extremely challenging time, when people

## ***Community Pulls Together, continued***

grandparents, foundations, and even several GCS alumni no longer in the area—had given over \$35,000.

“I can’t express how grateful we are to the Guilford community” said Bristol. “The past six months have been so challenging for our kids, and it just feels like the entire community has rallied to provide them with a safe, fun, and enriching educational experience—not just for

this year, but for years to come. Guilford truly is a special place.”

As September wound to a close, volunteers continued work on the final structure. One Monday morning, sixth graders held their Morning Meeting under one pavilion, while Pre-K and Kindergarten children played on their expanded playscape. By the end of September, children attending school in person were issued sets of high-quality rain

coats and pants.

“It’s been an enormously challenging time. Guilford had the right ingredients to respond positively: talented builders, teachers ready to try new things, parents willing to work hard, and a community that stepped up,” said Gagnon. “Guilford has certainly demonstrated what a small town can achieve when it comes together for its children.”



# School is Back in Session

BY ERIN TKACZYK

School is back in session, albeit a bit differently this fall. Guilford families had the option of selecting 100% remote learning or hybrid learning for their students, due to the COVID pandemic. Hybrid students are currently attending school in the school building on Monday and Tuesday, and via remote learning the rest of the week. The remote students attend a fully remote learning academy, which includes a mixed cohort of students from Guilford, Vernon and Putney and is staffed by teachers from all three schools.

Each learning option has had its share of challenges, but the Guilford and Central Office staff remain committed to addressing issues as they arise and continuing to check and adjust programs as possible. Everyone looks forward to the day when all of our students and staff can safely be together again within Guilford Central School.

The Guilford Central School Leadership Advisory Council (LAC) has been diligently meeting biweekly, via virtual Zoom meetings. Meetings are held every other Friday at 1:00pm. Agendas and Zoom links

from other district towns attend as well.

The primary role of the LAC is to serve as a conduit between the School District Board and our local Guilford Central School. Whether through organizing community engagement activities, attending school board meetings to advocate for Guilford's needs, or helping to prioritize budgetary requests, the LAC works to maintain Guilford's unique heritage and culture. We serve in an advisory role to the School District Board, who ultimately holds the decision and policy making authority.

The main focus of recent LAC meetings has been how to help members of both our hybrid and remote learning communities remain connected and engaged with Guilford School. Although we may not be all together in person, it is of the utmost importance for all students to maintain a sense of belonging to our school. The LAC has taken on this charge and has planned several upcoming events and activities to bring remote and hybrid students together collaboratively and safely. We look forward to building on these events and welcome any ideas or participation from the greater Guilford community.

We continue to be inspired and tremendously impressed with the resilience and dedication of our educational community and their unwavering commitment to supporting the needs of each of our students. We firmly believe GCS staff, students and families will rally and prevail successfully through this unconventional 2020-21 school year.



*Young children find much to do outside*

can be found on the WSESU website at [www.wsesu.org](http://www.wsesu.org) and by clicking Leadership Councils in the menu. All meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. Currently, the Guilford LAC consists of the school principal, John Gagnon, two staff members and seven parents. Guilford School Board representative Shaun Murphy is also in attendance, and we frequently have School Board members

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# Artisans Carry on during Pandemic

BY CAROL SCHNABEL

What are Guilford artisans doing during the pandemic? This is a question I posed once it was decided that the annual Guilford Holiday Open Studio would not take place in its usual format this year.

Hanna Jenkins of Tapalou Guilds, a flower farm on Sweet Pond Road, quickly shifted gears this past spring and organized a Guilford food buying group, when people were looking for more ways to purchase local food in a contact-free manner. She ran this for several months until the demand declined. In addition, she had the largest number of customers to date in her summer flower CSA. Hanna continues to produce dried flower arrangements and wreaths, and she plans to post photos on-line with information on how to purchase them. Her website is: [www.TapalouGuilds.com](http://www.TapalouGuilds.com).

John Dimick is a painter who found himself adjusting to the early stresses of the pandemic by hiking and biking more. This rejuvenated his interest in landscapes and other nature-based images. He has been working on a series of paintings of places he has seen along the roads and trails he travels. His work has been accepted in several juried shows. The galleries are open, but there have been no receptions where artists can get feedback from the public. Most of John's work is on his website: [johndimickartist.com](http://johndimickartist.com), where he continues to offer original paintings, giclee prints, and notecards for sale. He also can be reached at [jsdimick@yahoo.com](mailto:jsdimick@yahoo.com) or 802 246-7200.

Jenifer Morier creates handmade lamps and shades, raku and saggar fired pottery and functional porcelain. She sells her pottery through galleries and craft shows. When demand for her work declined as stores closed and craft fairs were cancelled, Jen used the opportunity to empty her studio, give it a thorough cleaning, and re-organize. She also expanded her outdoor firing area. She has been able to give her body (especially her thumbs) a break, and to go camping and paddling in quiet places. Jen has an Etsy page which can be accessed by going to her website: [lightenupstudio.org](http://lightenupstudio.org). She also can be reached by phone at 802 257-4435 or email [lightenupstudio@gmail.com](mailto:lightenupstudio@gmail.com) to arrange for a socially distant visit.



*Before the Freeze by John Dimick*

Nelly Detra teaches at the Marshfield School of Weaving and weaves for Eaton Hill Textile Works, also located in Marshfield, Vermont. During the pandemic she has done more weaving than teaching, making historic reproduction fabrics for interiors, such as worsted upholstery fabric and table linens. In addition, with the help of family and friends, she and her partner have built and moved into a yurt on their land.

Nancy Detra spent the first months of COVID writing, rewriting, and illustrating a children's picture book in pen, and ink, with dashes of color. That finished, she is now back to oil painting at the River Gallery in Brattleboro and writing a children's chapter book.

The majority of my weaving is sold in craft galleries which all were shut down for the first few months of the pandemic and have re-opened very slowly. I have used much of my recent time in the studio to make masks for friends, family, and neighbors. I also have been able to devote more time to gardening, walking, cycling, and catching up on some home projects.

Since it is not possible to safely host the Holiday Open Studio this year, I am offering the opportunity for people to make an

appointment to come to the studio in a socially distant manner. I will have an assortment of handwoven scarves, shawls, placemats, and kitchen towels for sale. In addition, there will be dish-towels made by Nelly Detra available for purchase at the studio. I can be reached at 802 257-1894 or at [carolschnabelhandweaving@gmail.com](mailto:carolschnabelhandweaving@gmail.com).

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# As Farming Season Ends

BY NANCY DETRA

Autumn is the time to harvest. Meggie Stolzman of Hermit Thrush Farm spoke to me about her growing season while picking leaves off basil plants she'd harvested just before the first frost in September. She makes pesto to sell at her farm stand on the Hinesburg Road, at the Guilford-Halifax line. This year, by the end of September, local farmers had already seen several frosts. The pumpkins and winter squash had appeared from under a blanket of wilted leaves: potatoes, carrots and leeks were ready to be dug or pulled.

"I really enjoy growing winter squash. I find it so joyful to harvest all of the squash at the end of the season," said Tadj Shreck of Up the Hill Farm on Bullock Road. At Milkweed Farm on Carpenter Road, Jonah Mossberg and partner Emily Hartz are feeding their fresh pureed winter squash to their new baby, born in the spring.

The frosts killed Meggie's cucumber, eggplant and tomatillo plants, but she was still nurturing tomatoes and peppers in her greenhouse. Of course, frost is inevitable in fall. But other challenges also took their toll this year.

"There has been a pandemic, drought, deer, woodchucks, crop failures. [But] we still managed to have our best season (financially) yet, in large part due to the support of Guilford residents and other local partners across the food system," said Jonah.

Indeed, community support was a major factor in the success of this growing year. Jonah noted that the pandemic increased people's interest in local produce, with a big upswing in the number of members

in the farm's CSA (Community Supported Agriculture "club"). Tadj saw an increase in business at her Bullock Road farm stand too.

And patrons didn't buy just vegetables.

"There was a crazy interest in starts," said Meggie. At Hermit Thrush's farm stand these included vegetable, herb, and flower plants that had gotten a head start in the greenhouse. For those who couldn't get enough flowers this summer, there was Hanna Jenkins' Tapalou Guilds CSA, devoted solely to flowers, lovingly fed and nurtured by Hanna, and all ready for members' vases every week.

"People's spirits were hungry for flowers this year," said Hanna at her farm on Sweet Pond Road. (See "Flowers Feed the Soul")

Jonah's CSA members picked up a wealth of assorted, pre-bagged vegetables each week at the farm—whatever was flourishing at the farm that week. This system has the advantage of introducing members to new kinds of vegetables. Meggie's CSA operates differently, with all customers—members and non-members alike—having their choice of what's at the farm stand on any day. Members pay \$500 up front, in January or February (\$300 for a half-share). This way, Meggie has money ahead of the season with which to purchase seeds and other supplies. Since members have already "bought in," they can just keep tabs on how much of that money they've used. Non-member customers pay at the time of purchase. Next year Milkweed will adopt a "free choice" model too.

Canning has seen a surge of interest this year as well. Due to Covid people are spending more time at home and are not frequenting restaurants as much. Meggie has been

canning harvest extras for her family's own use. So have many of her customers and others around the area.

"I went to get more canning jars at the hardware store, and they were completely sold out!" said Meggie.

But the pandemic took away the chance for community gatherings at the harvest. "One of the most disappointing parts of our season was the inability to gather our CSA members and friends for community-building events on the farm because of Covid," said Jonah.

## Flowers Feed the Soul

BY NANCY DETRA

Hanna Jenkins of Tapalou Guilds farm says she believes in the "simplicity and everyday magic that flowers bring into the world..." and considers them "to be extraordinary companions through the myriad of challenges facing people right now."

This year Hanna operated a 70-member CSA—providing a wide variety of fresh flowers every week to the Guilford community and people in and around Brattleboro.

She was also able to donate her flowers through her Blooms for Beings initiative. Throughout the season Hanna was thrilled to be able to give flowers to Brattleboro Area Hospice patients and the Women's Freedom Center. It is her hope that people continue to see the incalculable value of flowers. In looking forward, Hanna is hoping that her CSA continues to grow and that she's also able to go on deepening her connection to the land and beings around her.



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# Guilford 250th Plaque

BY DON MCLEAN

In the previous issue of the *Gazette*, there was a nice story about historic road markers in Guilford. But I noticed the article missed an historic plaque that I think should have been included: The Guilford 250th Anniversary commemorative marker in front of the Historical Society Museum in Guilford Center. This marker is only a few feet from the Royall Tyler marker, which did make it into the story.

As co-chair—with Addie Minott—of the 250th celebration, I was involved with some of the details of the plaque project, and I am taking this opportunity to re-introduce townspeople to the marker, and give credit to those who worked on it.

The Guilford 250th filled the entire year 2011, from the ringing of all town church bells on January 1—including the bell at Guilford Center Meeting House across the road from the Museum—to the big New Year's Eve party up the road at the Grange hall. In between those dates, many of the events (at least one each week!) took place in historic Guilford Center, making the choice of location for the marker most appropriate.

After the celebration was over, we decided that we should leave a memento, so that people visiting or living in Guilford in the future would get the idea that we had a great celebration of our semiquincentennial.

Throughout our anniversary, one thing that was very prominent was our Guilford 250th logo, created by graphic designer, Joy Wallens-Penford, of Guilford, who died early in 2020. The round logo,

which appeared on all publications, posters and flyers, was displayed all over town on t-shirts and sweatshirts. Those who donated to the fund for the celebration received a logo fridge magnet. We also had on sale coffee mugs and even beer glasses for the recreation of the famous Franklin Barbecue. And some people probably still have the bronze keepsake medallion.

The logo was a stylized depiction of Guilford's iconic landmark, the Green River Covered Bridge. The commemorative plaque is simply that logo, a round bronze casting. Joy supervised the artwork that was submitted to the foundry, making sure the colors were as true as possible, though it has unexpectedly faded over the eight years.



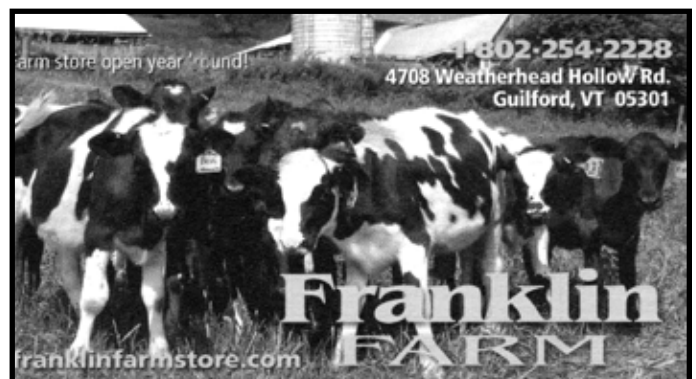
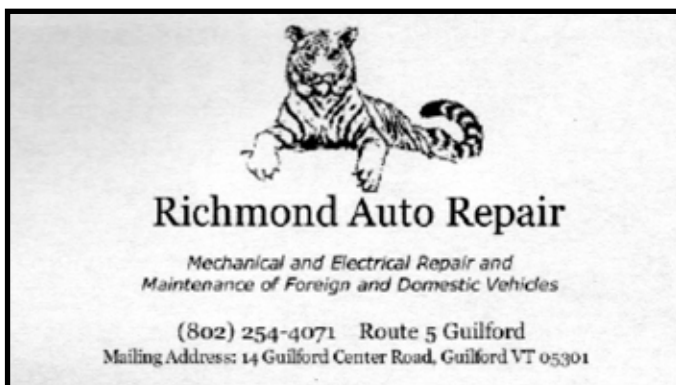
*Guilford 250th commemorative plaque stands in front of the Historical Society museum.*

The Guilford Historical Society was pleased when we asked them to have the plaque in front of the Museum. We decided that the appropriate mounting for the marker would be a large stone, and there was one obvious Guilford resident who would find, move and place

*Continued on Page 8*



*(left to right) Addie Minott, Joy Wallens-Penford, Richard Clark, and Don McLean at 250th commemorative ceremony.*





*Preschooler cooks up something tasty in the school forest*

### ***Guilford 250th Plaque, continued***

that stone: the late Eddie Clark, known throughout town for his expertly crafted stone walls. Hal Kuhns, of Guilford, took on the job of permanently attaching the plaque to the stone.

There was one final thing we had to do before leaving the plaque for future generations: The dedication ceremony was held on Sunday, June 28, 2012. After Addie Minott and I spoke on behalf of the 250th Committee, a number of whom were present, committee member Dick Clark addressed the gathering on behalf of the selectboard. Then Joy “unveiled” the marker (by removing the black plastic trash bag!) We decided it would be undignified to break a bottle of champagne over the marker, so we dribbled some on it, instead.

The 250th marker shares the location with two others: the Royall Tyler historic plaque, and a lesser-known item: On the other side of the Museum’s front door, and embedded flat in the ground, is a stone from the original, now demolished I-91 Guilford Welcome Center. You may wish to visit this trio of Guilford markers in front of the Museum at 4063 Guilford Center Road.

## **Local AIDS Project to Hold Postponed Annual Walk**

BY WANDA ATOMANUK

The AIDS Project of Southern Vermont will hold its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual AIDS Walk on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at noon in conjunction with our World AIDS Day commemoration. The event, to be held outside in downtown Brattleboro, will include a socially-distanced walk, a vigil, speakers and music.

Despite our disappointment in not being able to hold our annual May walk, the two occasions allow us to show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses in our community as well as globally.

World AIDS Day takes place every year on December 1<sup>st</sup> and is an opportunity to remind the public and our government that HIV has not gone away—there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and stigmas, and improve education.

Our long-time volunteer and dear friend, Shirley Squires (1890 Guilford Center Road) will once again raise funds for the AIDS Project in honor of her son Ron. She had already mailed out her letters to supporters when the pandemic hit and the Walk had to be postponed. Shirley was amazed at the number of responses she received within a few weeks of mailing the letters. To date, over 300 of her faithful supporters have contributed to her efforts, bringing her to just \$2,000 shy of her fundraising goal for 2020.

We hope you will join Shirley in raising funds so we can continue our important work in southern Vermont. For more information, contact Maeve: 802-254-4444.

To set up your page or donate to Shirley’s page, go to [firstgiving.com](http://firstgiving.com) and enter her name in the search bar.



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# Shirley Turns 90

BY WANDA ATOMANUK

"Shirley Squires has put away over a thousand Christmas Nativities she displays each year as a fundraiser for the Southern Vermont AIDS Project and Brattleboro Area Hospice. Shirley, mother of eight, matriarch to three dozen, worked 34 years at Cersosimo Lumber. She is now a mainstay of the AIDS Project, a Hospice caregiver, and a versatile community volunteer.\*

*\* This is an excerpt from "Kitchen Talks", a collection of narratives gathered by Verandah Porche from longtime residents of Guilford. Verandah is making this book available for purchase at the Library, to benefit the Guilford Library and the Guilford Gazette.*

Shirley Searles Squires turned 90 this past August. Born in 1930, not only has she witnessed vast changes in this town, state, country and world, she has accomplished much herself. She continues to visit nursing homes, and is active in Hospice, the church and the AIDS Project.

Her birthday was celebrated with a few family members this year. Family had planned a large celebration with family and friends, but this was curtailed by COVID-19. With Shirley's ever positive attitude, she enjoyed the day regardless.

How has this active "young" woman responded to COVID 19? She is staying home; her family is protecting her with social distancing; taking

advantage of the town residents' offers to grocery shop for her, etc.

I see her weekly, and she has said that she hadn't realized how busy she had been before COVID-19. Now, cleaning closets, drawers, garage and cellar are all being tended to in more depth!

Two important things in her life, other than family and friends, are her nativities and her participation in the AIDS project. Because of social distancing there will be no in-home visits to view her massive array of nativities. They range from the very elegant to those made by school children. She treasures them all. Since you can't see them in person this year, you can look up her display and interview on YouTube. Just search "Shirley Squire's nativities." Fortunately, she

can remain active via phone and mail in her other interest, the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont.

For the last couple of years, Shirley has met with a few friends to pursue a new hobby—making greeting cards. She is having a blast. She has gone from "I never even colored" to knowing how to use stamps, dyes, inks, paper, etc. Her growth has been impressive, as is her willingness to try new ideas. It is time she had some "Shirley time." When COVID 19 hit she thought that sending cards to those she visited in the nursing homes would be a good idea, but in Shirley fashion she sent cards to all the residents. We need more of her. She is a friend to be treasured.



*Shirley Squires (right) makes cards with friends*

## For Shirley at 90

BY VERANDAH PORCHE

She lifts our spirits!  
Her Nativities shimmer  
In the dead of winter: a  
Rare treasure trove of  
Little miracles sent from  
Every earthly home to hers.  
Your eyes travel, shelf-to-  
Shelf, and feel her faith: her  
Quiet certainty that Love will  
Undo cruelty. Her trust in life  
Is news we crave, as fear and  
Rude words rule the airwaves.  
Each time we give a little gift,  
Shirley lifts us.

# Guilford Volunteer Fire Department News

BY WANDA ATOMANUK

**COVID-19 AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**—As for everyone, COVID-19 presents many challenges. This is no less true with fire departments everywhere. The Guilford department has many members who are EMTs. While following the protocols and, to further protect the men and women in the department, it was decided to close the building to the public and any unnecessary personnel. With great disappointment I am sure, the decision to forgo the Sugar on Snow Dinner and further down the road, the Chicken BBQ at the Guilford Fair (also canceled). While we could have done as other organizations in the area and had a “Take Out” dinner it would remain an increased chance of exposure to the members preparing. Next time will be greatly enjoyed for having missed this year.

Here are some ideas of what they face. When fighting a fire those directly involved wear packs and full face/head covering helmets. When these are removed, masks and gloves are worn. Keep in mind that the focus is on the situation at hand, protocols are not first in thought. It is a “new normal” to learn and become instinctive.

It is normal to clean the vehicles, restock, dry and repack the hoses, etc. after a fire. On average, clean-up takes an hour or more when back at the station. Now, sanitization procedures add time to an already busy event.

Our regular once-a-month meetings have been done via Zoom, while some meetings need to be held at the station. Protocols are again reiterated and discussed.

Then there are the medical responses.

With Covid-19 a possibility when answering a call, changes have been made: one medically trained member performs triage before anyone else enters. Then, only those absolutely needed go in. Other personnel remain outside until needed. The Guilford Fire Department also responds to the six miles of interstate and the Welcome Center for medical and fire events. Again, it is unknown exactly what they will encounter at each call. At present there is a sufficient supply of personal protective equipment at the station and in the vehicles.

These men and women are volunteers, and they deserve our heart-felt gratitude and respect for stepping up in this unprecedented time. We also note that the families are sacrificing family time.

**T-SHIRTS**—The Guilford Fire Department has new t-shirts for purchase. This shirt features the new fire truck. It comes in sizes up to XXXXL and youth in 2 sizes. Adult shirts are \$20 and youth are \$15. These may be paid for by PayPal or check, with t-shirts in the memo line. Please call the station (802-254-4413) for sizes and pickup instructions. This is a great gift idea.

**CHRISTMAS TREES**—A fundraiser to benefit the GVFD will be sponsored by Travis Kissel’s business, 3 Trees. Travis will be selling Christmas trees and other items at his craft stand. You can follow his progress in preparing for this event on Facebook. He is located at 80 Princess Lane in Vernon, off Lowrey Rd. Travis is a past member of the fire department, and we greatly appreciate his help in fundraising for the fire department. Further details will be coming through various media.

## Fire Department Statistics

### July:

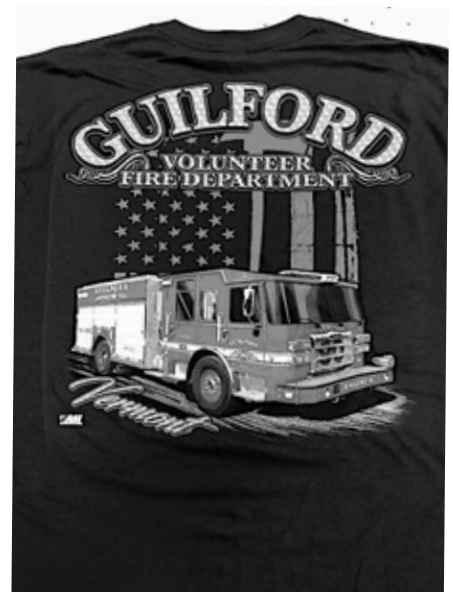
5 fire  
11 medical calls  
2 mutual aid

### August:

5 fire  
11 medical calls  
2 mutual aid

### September:

4 fire  
10 medical calls  
3 mutual aid



*New Guilford fire department t-shirt*

*Continued on next page*

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# BBCC Partners with Guilford Central School

BY JAIME DURHAM

The Broad Brook Community Center (BBCC) added the Guilford Central School as a new partner this past summer. The School joins our existing partners—the Town of Guilford, Guilford Cares, and the Broad Brook Grange—in our shared commitment to the 1896 Grange hall as it is renovated and developed into an important community hub. Partners contribute to the sustainability of the Broad Brook Community Center by helping to keep the building in regular use. Working together and mutually supporting other organizations in Guilford strengthens our community as a whole. Thank you to all our partners for your support! Historically, the Broad Brook Community Center building was a regular part of local school culture. Before the Central School came into use, children attended one-room schoolhouses in their neighborhoods, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation for all schools was at the Grange. In more recent years, the Broad Brook Community Center has hosted 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduation events and other school functions, including a

GCS/BBCC contra dance back in January.

As part of our new partnership agreement with Guilford Central School, I stopped by in early September to hand a key to principal John Gagnon (or as my kids call him, “Mr. G”), in case the School needs to use the BBCC as an emergency shelter. In the future, for large events (I’m dreaming of dance parties year-round!) we’ll use the school for overflow parking. I was so impressed by the outdoor learning spaces that sprung up over the summer at the school! My older son was in GCS’s awesome pre-K class last year, and spent many a happy hour in the outdoor classroom with his teachers Emma, Bridget, and Kristine. After talking to Mr. G, I spotted Bridget in a utility apron full of hand-sanitizer, wipes, and a multitude of other tools to keep pre-K running smoothly. “We spend all day outside!” she told me with the enthusiasm that I love in our Guilford School teachers. Thanks to all the teachers, staff, and volunteers that have worked so hard to keep our kids safe, happy, and educated in the midst of this pandemic!

In my frequent visits to the BBCC, I often see folks parked in the lot using the Wifi. Please—use this anytime. As an off-gridder with internet speed as slow as cold molasses, I often use this service myself.

We provide regular updates on what’s happening at the Broad Brook Community Center in our monthly e-newsletters. Past newsletters can be found on our website at [broadbrookcommunity-center.org/newsletters](http://broadbrookcommunity-center.org/newsletters). If you or anyone you know (any newcomers to town?) would like to subscribe, please email me at [broadbrookccc@gmail.com](mailto:broadbrookccc@gmail.com), and I will be happy to add you!

Please also email me with any questions or thoughts about your Community Center. The building has such a rich history and an exciting future, and lately I’ve been turning my eye to what life will be like post-renovation. I dream of events year-round in an insulated and comfortable space. I see music and theater performances, film showings, pot-lucks, and of course, dances! In our new commercial kitchen, I smell the turkeys roasting on Thanksgiving, the beans baking for the Sugar-on-Snow supper, and the “stone soups” from many hands cooking at one of our Community Days. I hear the hoots and hollers of children and the murmurs of knitters at another Guilford University Community Day, and the buzz of political engagement at public council meetings.

The future is so bright! What do you imagine at your Community Center?

## Guilford Volunteer Fire Department News, continued

REFLECTIVE SIGNS—When responding to an emergency call, time is of the essence; a visible address marker that can be clearly seen from the road. The fire department has purchased reflective signs for residents to purchase and install at their homes. As with any address marker, these should be placed at the end of the driveway

to the address and so that they will be visible in the winter above snowbanks. The purchase price is \$20 each. Fill out the form to include your name and address and method of payment. Payment may be made through PayPal or by check (please note “Sign” in the memo line on the check.) You will be contacted for pickup instructions.



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## Camp Night at Guilford Free Library

### Highlights Summer of Fun

BY LYNN GREEN

The invitation for the latest event at the Guilford Free Library didn't come from Librarian Cathi Wilken and it wasn't for you or for me. It came from Frederick, Patty, Lambie Pie and Paddington, regulars at the library's story hour, and went to all the "stuffed" friends of the library

to join them for a late summer sleepover. Dubbed the fifth week of camp, the event closed out the summer season of camps for Kindergarten through eighth-graders and was a way to include preschoolers.


The regular story hour goes out these days over Zoom and includes

participants from France and California. But distance didn't deter them from joining the sleepover: Photos of their stuffies showed up and were attached to actual stuffies so they could participate.

*Continued on next page*



*Laura and Luna set up the marshmallow roasting*



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# Summer 2020 in the Gardens

BY LINDA HAY

This was a year when it seemed everyone had a garden; suddenly lack of time seemed a poor excuse. Even Leslie Kinney, who truly had little time to spare, had grown daughters who showed up to get her garden in. And somehow lack of seeds could not keep the gardeners down, as a plea to Front Porch Forum could result in offers from strangers. And Comfrey Commons on East Mountain and Anne Rider offered cherry tomato starts (thanks sooo much) when the usual sources ran out.

It seemed almost everyone had something to say about fresh fruits and veggies ... and the dreadful lack of rain. We

were in an officially recognized drought. Every day I checked VPR's Eye on the Sky and then Dave Hayes the Weather Nut's very local online forecast looking for rain. Suddenly it was late September and we were still watering and then covering up the plants to avoid frost. And then the deluge came—the brooks ran again and after four chilly nights it warmed up.

Some folks mourned the lack of a Guilford Fair because finally they had grown things worthy of ribbons. Others sweated out the lack of canning jars, Certo for jelly making, or the spices needed for pickles. And a few turned to research to find out why after weeks of very hot and sunny weather the

tomatoes did not ripen. Lo and behold there was an answer. It was too hot! If the temperature is above 85 degrees tomato plants stop producing the pigments (lycopene and carotene) needed to turn them red, yellow, orange, whatever, and to generate the hormone ethylene, also needed for ripening.



## Camp Night, continued

Brown Bear was totally prepared with a (photo) camping apron from France that included all the essentials for a night in a tent. Oshi the Otter's photo came from California so he could join in the festivities.

Mazie Hunt brought her Fluffy Dog, accompanied by her mother Amber and new sister Joan. Fluffy was a little shy at first but got to playing with Eddie the Hedgehog, Brown Bear and Bunny in the stone box. Everyone took advantage of the time in the stone box to play with the trucks and toys and to get to know each other. And, of course, to have lots of pictures taken.

All the animals later gathered in the woods to examine mushrooms growing there, with the help of their

librarian and Board of Trustees President Laura Lawson Tucker. Vega Valentine volunteered to assist with the event and brought Piba, a very athletic "friend" of the stuffies who enjoyed climbing trees.

Soon it was time to put away the toys and gather for the trip to the overnight campsite. The stuffies, transported by Wilken, Lawson Tucker, Vega and her mother Erika Elder, ended up at the home of Chris and Ragan Beebe where a tent had been erected for them. At the tent they toasted marshmallows and Vega read them a bedtime story before going to sleep. In the morning they had breakfast and the bigger stuffies played on the slide. They then went back to the library where they watched the slide show of their adventure.

"We felt that the sleepover this year was really important because it was such a fun event at a time when there is a need for safe and fun activities," Wilken commented. "We especially enjoy engaging our youngest patrons to start them off on a lifetime of experiencing their libraries as a focal point in their communities."

The camp program at the library successfully continued this summer for 40 campers despite the challenges of operating during a pandemic. Screening protocols kept everyone healthy and enjoying their time at the library, whether it was at Soccer Camp, Co-Creating with Nature Camp, Be the Animal Camp or Stage and Stream. The sleepover on August 18 capped the summer of fun.

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# Legislative Update

BY SARA COFFEY

Historical moments, like this pandemic, test institutions and force us to think creatively, and I'm proud of the way that we worked together in the Vermont House to address the challenges we face. This session we developed and passed a budget that addresses the health and economic needs of Vermonters without raising taxes; took action on climate change; made progress in addressing systemic racism in our criminal justice system; and expedited \$1.25 billion in corona relief funds to support workers, child-care centers, our schools, businesses and nonprofits during this unprecedented health and economic crisis.

I ran for office because I care deeply about the future of our small rural communities. As a first-term legislator, I co-sponsored legislation to expand rural broadband, address climate change, protect reproductive rights, and increase investments in affordable child-care and housing. I successfully advocated to appropriate \$3.5 million of the Corona Relief Funds to the Working Lands Enterprise Program and \$5 million in economic recovery grants for the arts and cultural sector.

Alongside the economic and health crisis caused by the pandemic is the existential threat of climate change. Climate change is not an abstract risk that may affect us in the future, it is impacting us today. We're already encountering harsher storms, more frequent flooding, and extreme temperatures. For over a decade

Vermont has had established agreed-upon goals in statute to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, yet we have failed to achieve these emissions reductions. In fact, Vermont is alone amongst Northeastern states in having higher emissions today than in 1990.

Vermonters have been demanding climate action, and this session we developed and passed the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). This legislation is a comprehensive response to the climate crisis appropriate to Vermont. The GWSA sets a required timeline for reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with Governor Scott's Paris Agreement promise. These reduction requirements would be similar to other Northeastern states. The legislation creates a Climate Council of 23 experts and executive agency heads. The Council is charged with crafting a Climate Action Plan to coordinate programs, measurement, and evaluation, and also to ensure geographic, economic and social equity. The Council will report back to the Legislature annually regarding progress and recommendations for necessary legislation and the Plan's fiscal impacts will be analyzed by the Joint

Fiscal Office and reviewed by the Legislature. By setting specific timelines for action, our economy will benefit by transitioning away from fossil fuels and toward more local energy production. Our communities will become more resilient, protecting our most vulnerable citizens from harsher climate.

While the session has ended, my work will continue into the winter as we prepare for the next legislative biennium which will begin in January 2021. My focus is on the needs of our community and on ensuring no one falls behind during this pandemic..

It is an honor to represent the people of Guilford in the Vermont House. Please know that I am available to answer questions, help you connect with resources, and listen to your priorities.

Please stay in touch and stay safe!


Sara Coffey  
State Representative, Windham-1/  
Guilford & Vernon  
SCoffey@leg.state.vt.us  
802-257-0288  
www.saracoffeyvt.com

## A Bit of Land or Small Home Wanted in Guilford

I am hoping to buy a small piece of land or house here in my hometown of Guilford. If you have either, or know of any available in the surrounding area, please let me know. Thanks in advance for your consideration. Tyler Potter 802-579-3375 or [potterpride723@gmail.com](mailto:potterpride723@gmail.com)

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# How's Your Internet?

BY ZON EASTES

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has revealed our need for equitable, reliable Internet connections. Prior to the appearance of COVID, a quicker Internet connection might have been considered a promising addition to our increasingly interconnected lives. Now, it is commonly understood to be a stark necessity. For education. For healthcare. For work.

In the last Gazette, I wrote about the nascent efforts of the Deerfield Valley Communications Union District (DVCUD), which the Guilford Selectboard voted unanimously to join in May. Still in the early stages of framing up, the DVCUD now operates as DVFiber.net, a municipal business with a mission to provide high-speed Internet for all in the current 15-town district.

DVFiber's values are equity, performance, affordability, reliability, and privacy. You can read more about DVFiber's vision and principles (and learn more about the organization) at [dvfiber.org](http://dvfiber.org).

All good, but "When?"

The question we most often hear is "When?" "When will my household have a faster, more reliable connection?"

The quick answer: Probably not as soon as any of us would like. The job of securing a reliable connection for every district household and business is complex. The current corporate-based infrastructure will not support equitable access, so it's not a matter of 'just hooking up' with what's out there. DVFiber is a wholly new business. New physical and business systems need to be designed and built. Proposed physical build-outs will reach least-served areas first

(Guilford, taken in total, and in comparison with other towns, is fairly well served). As I understand timelines, the soonest a connection can be made is about two years. The outside prediction for full connection throughout the district is five years. So, patience will be required of us all.

Another often-asked question is "How much will I pay?" At this point, with so much still not known, it is impossible to guess what monthly household or business costs might be. DVFiber plans to offer a tiered pricing option (like successful models elsewhere). It is clear to me that DVFiber, unlike certain communications corporations, is well-suited to honor its commitment to equity and affordability.

How will we reach the goal?

The Windham Regional Commission (which Guilfordites vote to support at Town Meeting) played a catalytic role once the Governor signed the legislation that enabled formation of CUDs in Vermont. As part of its commitment to broadband, WRC won a grant to complete a regional survey, a feasibility study (which landed positively) and, last month, a business plan that includes an engineering plan, market analysis, sequence and schedule of work, finance models, and estimated construction costs. This plan, now handed to DVFiber, frames the work to bring fast, reliable connection to this corner of Vermont.

DVFiber itself is governed by a board (one representative from each member town) and is organized into three committees, each with task forces—all hard at work. The Vendor Committee focuses on evaluating engineering and determining best operations models; the Finance Committee focuses on establishing proper business procedures and protocols as well as developing financial support models; the Communications Committee works to expand awareness and understanding for the broader community as well as for the board itself.

To this point, all work is done by volunteers. DVFiber has no paid employees. As the representative for Guilford, I can attest to the incredible commitment and energy levels of the board members and volunteers collectively. (I attend 2-5 meetings per week.)

DVFiber is one of eight communications union districts in Vermont. Only one CUD existed prior to March 2020, more evidence that things are moving at break-neck speed. The eight have banded together into an association for mutual learning and strategy building, called Vermont Communications Union District Association (VCUDA), and the group meets regularly and often.

Intrigued? Want to get involved?

There is an enormous amount of work to be done to secure broadband for Guilford and this part of Vermont. You can learn more by visiting [dvfiber.org](http://dvfiber.org). Sign up for the newsletter. Contact me if you have specific skills that you'd like to offer the effort. I can be reached at [zoneastes@guilfordvt.net](mailto:zoneastes@guilfordvt.net) or at (802) 380-9550.

[Editor's Note: "How's Your Internet" will be a regular Gazette column reporting on the progress of the DVCUD.]

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# Gaines Farm Corn Maze 2020

BY LINDA HAY

Did the Gaines Farm pull off the Corn Maze? Yes they did!

Under a clear blue sky on October 3 Jackie Gaines was enthusiastic about the success of the socially distanced, well-masked annual Corn Maze Event at her Route 5 farm. With families roaming from farm-themed games to playground equipment to some very corny food offerings, to the Cow Train, and the main attraction, the Maze, the excitement was buzzing.

A family endeavor for all three Gaines generations, the event, running from 11-6 Saturdays and Sundays from Sept 26 to Oct 25 (plus Indigenous People's Day) showed how ingenuity, hard work, and determination with a hefty dose of humor could overcome the virus. The maze had a shark theme this year and as families and friendly groups emerged they energetically rang a bright red bell to indicate that they had survived the maze and the sharks. Then staying in their groups they visited the animals in the barn, selected Guilford-grown pumpkins, competed at

basketball hoops and bean hole, bowled with bright orange balls, and gathered at well-spaced picnic tables for "fair food".

I met Kate Ingram who could remember when the event began as a Haunted Hayride

fundraiser for Guilford Central School (called off for 2020 due to the impossibility of doing it safely), which expanded to a Haunted Maze (also too prone to

*Continued on next page*



*Corn Maze Cow Train*

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# Guilford Soccer Club Back on the Field

BY MAGGIE FOLEY

Most Saturdays last winter, fifteen of Guilford's most enthusiastic young soccer players traveled to Indoor Action Sports (also known as "the Bubble") in Bernardston, MA to play with some of the region's most competitive travel teams. The competition was intense and tough, but Guilford's new team—named "Guilford Phoenix FC" in reference to the mythological bird and the abbreviation for Football Club—developed their skills and proved themselves to be challenging opponents for even the strongest teams.

The season was abruptly cancelled on March 14, and the Guilford Phoenix players began the long wait for the fall school season, before receiving news that WS-ESD elementary schools would not start the year with any afterschool programs.

With the beautiful fall weather and the

knowledge that outdoor soccer could be very safe and fun even during COVID, a group of industrious parents came together to figure out an alternate plan. They approached the Guilford Recreation Club, who quickly and enthusiastically gave them permission to use the Fairgrounds fields for their program.

Now, Guilford Phoenix FC is back on the field, and its original group of fifteen 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders has expanded to include 46 Guilford soccer players from kindergar-

ten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. With leadership from coaches Peter Welch and Jessie Cheslawski, and with assistant coaches Amit Sharma, Erin Tkaczyk, Alexis Mo-shovetis, Mike Roberts, Robin Nilson, Kitsie LaRock, and Jacqueline LaFlam, the program is entirely volunteer-powered and free to the participants. Cotton Design Associates of Newfane provided sponsorship for program insurance.

*Continued on page 18*

## *Corn Maze, continued*

unsafe enthusiasm) and the now central Corn Maze. For some it was a stand-in for the Labor Day Fair when they usually return to the Guilford of their youth. For others it has been an autumn staple since their now teenagers were toddlers, a reason to leave the big city of Burlington. And all the elders were amazed at how the youngsters were absolutely captivated by the low tech attraction. The only cell phones I saw being used were taking photos. As I was told as I was leaving, "These are such good people, we need this to remind us that we are a good country of good people."



*Phoenix teammates practice in the net*

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## Why I Volunteer

BY WANDA ATOMANUK

I never thought of it as volunteering. It was always about a need, and can I do it. I have been a Brownie and Girl Scout leader, president of the PTA, helped with church dinners, school events—whatever came up.

We moved to Guilford, and while having our pool filled by the fire department one member (Tim) said the GVFD Auxiliary was looking for new members. So, I became a member.

A few years ago we had a chimney fire that started in the cellar on a connecting pipe from our wood stove. We called 911, and Guilford and Brattleboro came to put it out. In came the men and women in gear through the front and back doors. I saw them dragging the hose through and thought “There goes the molding and who

knows what else.” Brattleboro went up on the roof and Guilford down the stairs to the cellar. When it was determined that the fire was out and all ok, they put a fan outside the back door to exhaust the smoke. I looked at this fan that sat on the ground outside; it had to pull smoke up the steps onto the porch, into the kitchen, down an L-shaped hall, and then down cellar. My thought was “You must be crazy to think this will help!” Well, it did. I couldn’t believe it cleared out all the smoke.

I was impressed with how everyone knew what to do and did it. No standing around asking “What do you want me to do?” No damage to the walls or any part of the house. Training at work. Looks like it paid off.

I never felt that donating a check was enough for the gratitude and respect I felt. When I was approached to volunteer as a trustee I was glad to do so. I feel that it is little enough to do; they give way more. Since being on the board I have further become aware of the fact that we don’t have just the FD men and women volunteering for the fire department, but their families are giving when they are away.

Also, the leadership and training makes for a well-respected department.

While I am “volunteering” for the Fire Department, the Auxiliary, and the Gazette, there are many organizations that need help. My grandmother always said, “Many hands make light work,” and I agree. It may take visiting a couple of committees to find one you are suited for, but it is worth the effort.

All I can say to end this is “If you want a new fan you’ve got it!” Thank all of you.

## Scarecrow Contest

BY EVELYN McLEAN

The Guilford Recreation Commission introduced a new activity this fall — a Halloween Scarecrow Contest. The scarecrows were displayed at the Guilford Center Playscape. Visitors could wander the path, enjoying the creativity of Guilfordites of all ages.

The Gazette went to press before the winners were announced, but we are pleased to be able to include photographs of some of our favorite. Let’s hope this will become an annual event.

### *Guilford Soccer Club, continued*

*photos on next page*

“Guilford Phoenix soccer has been such a wonderful experience for both me and my children,” said Erin Tkaczyk, volunteer coach and parent of players Macie, 11, and Korbin, 8. “It has been so good for our mental and physical health during this time. I have loved seeing all the smiling, happy kids each week.”

With the new school format of hybrid and remote choices, many Guilford children do not see all their classmates’ familiar faces every week. Guilford Phoenix soccer has

provided a regular outlet to reconnect with friends when the children take to the field every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of October.

“I think our team’s getting really good. We practice a lot and we work really hard,” said 11-year old Eli Welch, who came up with the Guilford Phoenix FC name. “I like seeing my friends on the soccer field, especially my friends who do remote school. Best of all, life feels normal when we’re playing soccer.”



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## Community Calendar

*Every Tuesday*

### • 11 AM ZOOM STORYTIME-

Library-Cathi Wilken and Laura Lawson Tucker present a program of songs, fingerplays, books and activities for babies, toddlers and older siblings (free) Info: 257-4603 Email [staff@guilfordfreelibraryvt.org](mailto:staff@guilfordfreelibraryvt.org) to request the zoom link.

*Every second Tuesday of the month*

### • 9 AM GAZETTE MEETING

Via Zoom or at the Guilford Country Store. Help plan the next issue.

*3rd Wednesday of the month.*

### • 6:30 PM TALK ABOUT BOOKS

Library. Books are available to borrow from the library. (free).

*Every Thursday*

### • 5-6 PM FOOD PANTRY BBCC

Info: call Pat Haine 257-0626



*Just a few of the wonderful scarecrows entered in the contest.*

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## ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

This newspaper is for you! We (the community volunteers) put together this newspaper for the community. We welcome your comments and questions. We hope that the Gazette provides a way for people in the community to communicate about local interests and goings on. Anyone can submit an article or letter to the editor--just put it in the Gazette Box at the library or the school, or mail it to The Guilford Gazette c/o Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301.

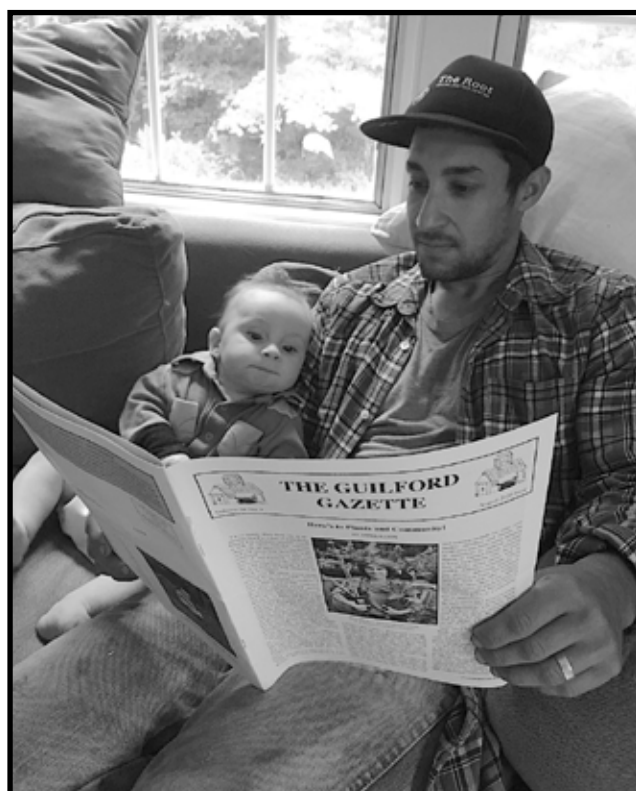
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## In This Issue...

Community Pulls Together.....	p.1,3
Help the Gazette.....	p.2
New Pastor for Guilford Community Church.....	p.3
School is Back in Session.....	p.4
Artisans Carry On During Pandemic.....	p.5
Guilford 250th Plaque.....	p.6,8
As Farming Season Ends.....	p.7
Flowers Feed the Soul.....	p.7
Local AIDS Project to Hold Postponed Walk.....	p.8
Shirley Squires Turns 90.....	p.9
Poem: For Shirley at 90.....	p.9
Fire Department Statistics.....	p.10
Guilford Volunteer Fire Department News.....	p.10-11
BBCC Partners with Guilford Central School.....	p.11
Camp Night at Guilford Free Library.....	p.12-13
Summer 2020 in the Gardens.....	p.13
Legislative Update.....	p.14
Wanted: A Bit of Land in Guilford.....	p.14
How's Your Internet?.....	p.15
Gaines Farm Corn Maze 2020.....	p.16-17
Guilford Soccer Club Back on the Field.....	p.17-18
Why I Volunteer.....	p.18
Scarecrow Contest.....	p.18-19
Community Calendar.....	p.19



*Photo courtesy Emily Hertz*



